

# El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

December 1987  
Vol. 25 No. 4



Santa Barbara Audubon Office  
300 North Los Carneros Road  
Goleta, CA 93227  
(805) 964-1468

Lee Sutter  
Editor

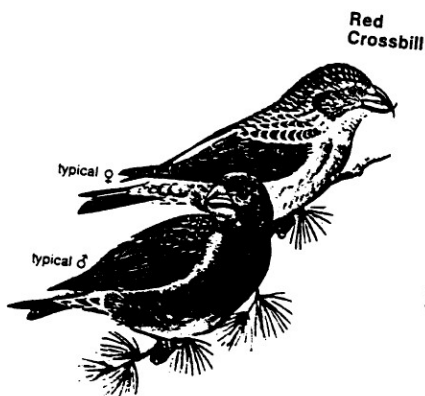
## MONTHLY PROGRAM

January 29, Friday  
8:00 pm

\*\*\* MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT \*\*\*

Farrand Hall  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
2559 Puesta del Sol  
Santa Barbara

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US!!



The new year's first meeting on January 29 is Members' Slide Night. You can talk about wanderlusting through the jungles of Colombia or hiking the backwoods of Santa Barbara. Members are limited to 10 slides/10 minutes. This is a great opportunity to share your pictures and your stories and meet other members. Sign up with Blase through the Audubon office.

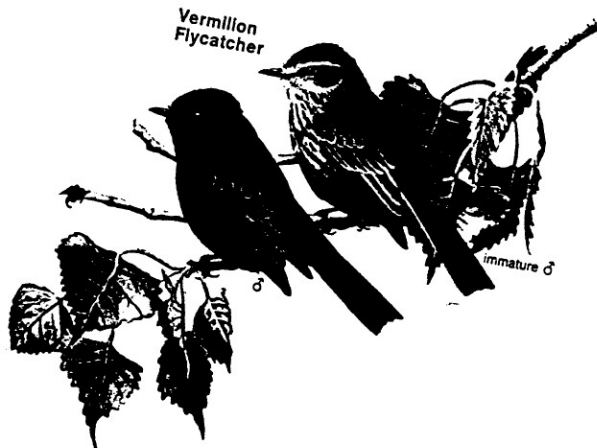
## BIRDS OF SANTA BARBARA

There were some outstanding sightings in the Santa Barbara area during the late autumn period. An apparent Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Carpinteria in mid-October would constitute the fourth record for the state and the first locally. A White-eyed Vireo at the same location for ten days at the end of the month is the first fall record for California and our second ever.

An immature Scarlet Tanager was at Stowe House in Goleta in early November. Also in Goleta, a female Vermilion Flycatcher had joined a Tropical Kingbird at the golf course near Devereux. A Pine Warbler, the fourth local record, was at Gaviota State Beach.

Lastly, several flocks of Red Crossbills were briefly noted in the Goleta area, evidence of a movement of this eruptive species this winter.

NEWS FLASH! A Yellow-throated Vireo at San Pedro Creek in Goleta in mid-November is only the third record locally, and an immature Painted Bunting was near Devereux during the same period. .... Paul Lehman



# CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

December 10 Thursday 7:00 pm	Board Meeting - to be held at the home of SBAS President Mary Ann Ambrose
December 12 Saturday 7:30 am	Lake Cachuma Meet at 5-Pts Shopping Ctr. Good trip for wintering waterfowl and eagles. Bring lunch/water. Leader Jim Hodgson (969-1209).
December 16 Wednesday 8:30 am	Beginner's Walk- Lake Los Carneros. Meet at Stowe House parking lot, behind Goleta Depot, 300 N. Los Carneros Rd. Leader Mary Ann Ambrose (685-1386)
January 2 Saturday	Christmas Bird Count - Details and application on insert, this issue.
January 15 Friday	Grouse/Eastern Sierra Trip Sign-up Deadline For information and reservations, call Tom at (805) 968-1540. Details this issue.
January 29 Friday 8:00 pm	Members' Slide Night - Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. See cover for details.

## JANUARY TRIPS

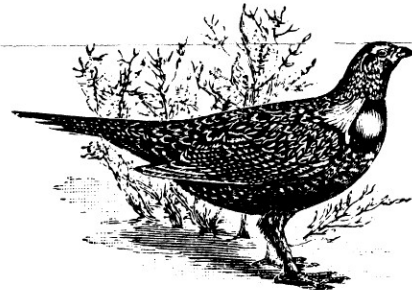
Due to the Holidays we do not have much scheduled for December, and most of January's trips still need to be firmed up. Plans for January include a field trip to the Ventura County Game Preserve, a boat trip at Lake Cachuma, and a field trip to Carrizo Plains. Please call the office late December or early January for details. (805) 964-1468.

## SAGE GROUSE AND WINTER BIRDING TOUR OF THE EASTERN SIERRA

Join us March 25-27 for a weekend of birding and adventure in the Mammoth Mountain area. At this season, the snow-covered escarpment of the eastern Sierra Nevada provides a dramatic backdrop for one of the most spectacular avian events on this continent - the mating assembly and display of the Sage Grouse.

Each day in the pre-dawn hours, hundreds of male grouse cluster at traditional sites scattered across sagebrush-edged meadows to strut and display before assemblies of female grouse which wander among them, seemingly indifferent to their solicitation. By mid-morning the arenas are empty; the grouse have slipped quietly back into the surrounding cover of sagebrush and are scattered widely across the basin. But the following day, and each day thereafter throughout the early spring, they'll assemble and replay their mating ritual.

Other avian highlights include Bald Eagles, Tundra Swans, other raptors and waterfowl, Evening Grosbeaks, and a host of hardy over-wintering species which could even include a flock of Rosy Finches. If that's not enough, our pursuit of avian adventure will be interrupted frequently to note geologic phenomena and items of botanic interest.



Sage Grouse

January 15 is deadline for signing up. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Don't miss this special trip. Comfortable group accommodations have been reserved for us in Mammoth. A trip fee of \$65 per person includes accommodations for both nights (Friday and Saturday, March 25 and 26). Trip leaders are Tom Wurster and Joan Lentz.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

Fifteen people participated Saturday in the outstanding field trip at Lake Los Carneros under the expert leadership of Jim Hodgson. Fifty species were sighted, including a most unusual Ash-throated Flycatcher. Stunning performances were given by Redtailed and Redshouldered Hawks, and good looks were had at a pair of Redheads and Blue Gray Gnatcatchers. .... M. E. Smith

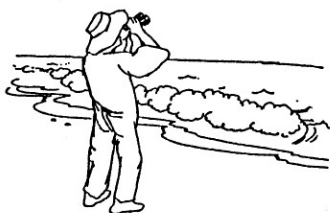
CHRISTMAS COUNT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1988

Set Saturday, January 2, 1988, aside for our Annual Christmas Bird Count, and complete and send in the coupon shown below.

Paul Lehman will again be our compiler; however, since Paul will be out of town all during Christmas vacation, Joan Lentz and Pat Kelly have agreed to help organize the Count. Pat will be taking sign-ups, either by phone or by mail (see below). During the week of December 28, 1987, we will be contacting you with details of the area you will cover. Please indicate on the enrollment form where and when we can reach you during that week.

We need birders of all levels to participate in this important event. The potluck dinner and tallying begin at 6:00 pm on the 2nd at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (Bird Habitat Hall). Come and join us at the "countdown" and bring your favorite casserole (or salad, bread, dessert, drinks, etc.) Let us know what you can contribute when we call you in December.

A couple of weeks before the Count, watch for the following birds: grosbeaks, tanagers, orioles, any non-Anna's Hummingbirds, unusual sparrows at feeders such as Whitethroated or Harris. Other species we need: any geese, dippers, Pygmy Owls, Long-billed Curlews. In fact, we are interested in any species in The Birds of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties by Lehman, et. al. that are listed as rare or casual during this season. If you locate any of the above, call Joan (969-4397) or Pat (962-9916). THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!



K. Foster

SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS COUNT  
January 2, 1987

Please complete this form and return to:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Area Preferred: \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to work with: \_\_\_\_\_

Pat Kelly  
554 Litchfield Lane  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109  
(805) 962-9916

Check any of the following  
options: ☒

\_\_\_\_ Leader

\_\_\_\_ Feeder Count

\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood

\_\_\_\_ I (we) will attend dinner

+++++



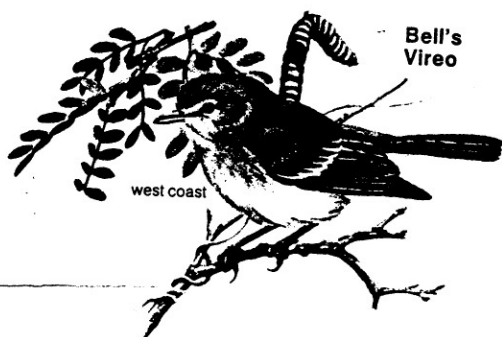
#### AUDUBON COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING

A Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve field trip began the November 7 program. This 500-acre coastal wetland in southwestern Orange County is a fabulous birding area. Sea and Sage Audubon hosted the meeting at Seacliff Village with its decorative and informative outdoor bird museum, large tile murals, and displays.

Richard Zembal, US Fish and Wildlife biologist's program "What's Happening to the Endangered Species and Other Wildlife in Southern California Wetlands?" (from Goleta to the Mexican border) stressed that the task of endangered species and habitat recovery is many-fold. Clapper Rail, Least Bell's Vireo, California Least Tern, and the Belding Savannah Sparrow are primary concerns. He suggested that each chapter take care of a wetland.

Former State Coastal Commissioner Mel Nutter reviewed the last 15 years of the CCC.

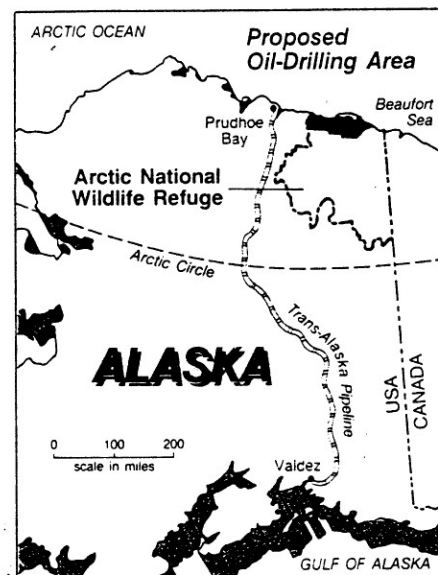
The Palos Verdes Chapter will host the next council meeting. ....Tomi Sollen



#### CEC/HART REPORT

Santa Barbara environmental organizations recently participated in a dialogue with State Senator Gary Hart at the Community Environmental Council. The following issues were discussed: Restrictions on local and state government financing by Gann limits and Proposition 13. Hart feels issues should be by legislation rather than by initiatives. Water: Southern California wants more water; need to establish drinking-water standards; pollution of Santa Monica Bay. Air Quality: Reorganize South Coast Air Quality Board; Hart has two bills on smog control; Toxics-Plastics: Transportation of toxics, Roberti bill on toxic waste and its reduction. Government agencies: Coastal Commission ineffective since Governor cut the budget; three district coastal offices closed. Governor has tried to eliminate CAL OSHA.

Paul Relis of CEC said that the 479 landfills in the state were causing underground water pollution; now making studies in seven counties. Need for statewide support of waste reduction legislation. ....Tomi Sollen



#### ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Currently, HR Bill 1082 is before the House Interior Committee which would open ANWR to oil and gas drilling. Industry lobbying continues full-force to access the area for drilling, yet the potential yield of energy is questionable. Robert Lagomarsino, our representative is a member of the House Interior Committee. Please write him at 814 State St., Santa Barbara 93101, and express your opposition to HR 1082 or any opening of that area to oil/gas exploration until Congress can obtain more solid information on the impacts of drilling and its consequent pollution of the area and wildlife.

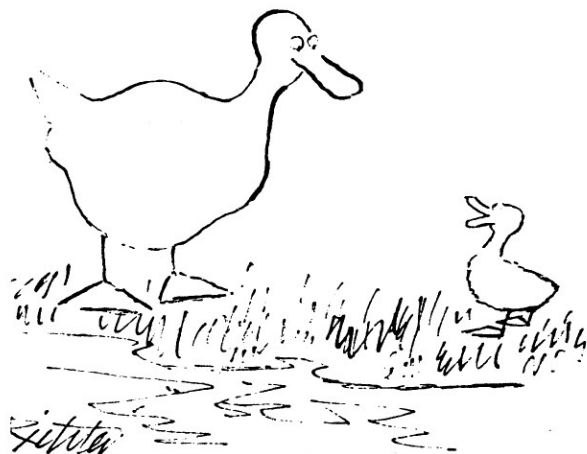
#### ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

The fifth annual symposium, January 30 & 31 at the Clarion Hotel in downtown Sacramento, is sponsored yearly by the Planning and Conservation League. Panels and debates will discuss a wide range of urgent environmental issues. Call SBAS office for more information.



#### BANDING PROJECT

A long-term bird banding project is being conducted in the Mission Canyon area; your help is needed to make the project a success. Species may include warblers, flycatchers, kinglets, woodpeckers, titmice, or many others. If you sight birds with a silver metal band on either leg, please report date, location, and species to Bruce Peterson (805) 569-3731.



"Mom, are we waterproof or just water-resistant?"

#### "DINNER TO GO PLEASE"

Connie Cody, of Betty Williams' Buttonwood Farm in Solvang reports that the foreman and his assistant have been spending a lot of time searching for gopher traps lately. Seems that turkey vultures grab hold of the stick that protrudes from the top of the traps, fly off with the trap and the captured gophers, and find a peaceful spot to enjoy their meal undisturbed!

#### SBAS OFFICE

We are open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Monday through Friday.

#### WILDLIFE PHOTO EXHIBIT

"The Feathered World", a photographic exhibit by Wildlife Research Photographer B. "Moose" Peterson is on display at the Cate School Gallery in Carpinteria. This public showing runs from November 15 - December 16.

EL TECOLOTE  
Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
300 No. Los Carneros Rd.  
Goleta, CA 93117

#### SOUTH COAST BIRD REPORTS

Los Angeles	(213) 874-1318
San Francisco	(415) 528-0288
San Bernardino	(714) 793-5599
San Diego	(619) 435-6761
Santa Barbara	(805) 964-8240

For current news of rare and unusual sightings in the Santa Barbara area, call 964-8240 anytime, night or day. You will hear a three-minute recording giving all the latest information. If you have any unusual or exciting sightings, please call the SBAS office (805) 964-1468.



#### SORRY!

Our Dial-A-Bird tape machine had been out of order for some time, without our knowledge. Then, adding insult to injury, the number to call was listed incorrectly last issue. We have a new machine now, are listing the correct phone number, and have up-to-date reports. Call it! We apologize for any inconvenience this caused.

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Promptly**